

REINVENTING THE GAME WARDEN REALITY SHOW GENRE

Engel Entertainment Introduces The Game Warden Channel

Dan Dennison

Communications Director (ret.)

Hawai'i Dept. of Land and Natural Resources

During the 2025 ACI Conference in Atlantic City, NJ, representatives of Engel Entertainment revealed its new YouTube channel as well as new production agreements with several states.

For a second year in a row, executive producer Ben Shank detailed the production companies' movement from pure conservation enforcement programming to a broader push toward telling the stories of people working in conservation.

In his opening remarks he mentioned Hawai'i and preliminary work the national reality show producers (*North Woods Law* and *Lone Star Law*) are doing in the Aloha State, to forge an agreement to begin full-scale production in the islands in partnership with the Hawai'i Dept. of Land and Natural Resources.

"Dan (me) and I just had the pleasure of working together last month, before he retired in Hawai'i, with all the different divisions there. And it was wonderful after years of building a relationship with him, and that's what we're here to do today. We were here last year. Thanks for having us back again," Shanks told ACI attendees.

He described progress Engel Entertainment has made over the past year, saying they've come a long way since first setting out on a new path and a new style of programming along with an additional distribution platform. Shanks remarked, "With the ever-changing ocean of television media and content, we are also trying to evolve and create something new and different, and hopefully something that all of you and all of the people that you interface with back at home can hopefully benefit from."

With a video, Engel introduced the launch of its YouTube undertaking, *The Game Warden Channel*. "Currently, we're working in or filming in Nevada, New Hampshire, Hawai'i, and with some other people that we've gotten to know over the years in Texas and other places," Shanks said.

"For the sake of entertainment, we added some clips of *Nevada Wild*, a series that's going to come out this fall on Animal Planet with the entire NDOW (Nevada Dept. of Wildlife), which is new venture for us," Shanks explained. Instead of focusing just on wildlife or conservation law enforcement, which is what Engel is known for, it incorporates all the divisions of the department. A similar format is being proposed for Hawai'i, and the company has already spent a week in the state shooting and producing a sizzle (preview to show cable executives). "We're super excited. It's been a long and exciting journey to get here, and it's going to be different, and hopefully we get to show lots of different sides of these state conservation departments," Shanks added.

He showed some unedited clips for *Nevada Wild* which depict the style of storytelling Engel plans to do beyond wildlife/conservation law enforcement.

One showed a mountain goat capture operation in northern Nevada. Biologists and a wildlife veterinarian are shown testing for a disease that is potentially killing goats. Another segment, in collaboration with the Paiute Tribe, involved NDOW returning big horn sheep to tribal land for the first time in 50 years. "Obviously, there's plenty of places in the United States that still have Native American tribes or indigenous peoples that integrate with state conservation agencies. "There's just unique stories like this all over that we've been able to incorporate," Shanks commented.

The video promo to encourage people to sign up for *The Game Warden Channel*, sums up Engel Entertainment's philosophy toward programming and partnering with state agencies to make it happen, "Together, let's preserve this way of life. Let's inspire future generations to value and respect our world, to appreciate the traditions of hunting, fishing and conservation. Join us on this journey. Support the stories, the heroes and legacy of American Great Outdoors."

Watch Engel Entertainments ACI Presentation here:
https://youtu.be/n9nl_LIC5H4?si=vHvvUOjoEZfs7L1y